

TSUNAMI WATCH/WARNING

The U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Weather Service (NWS) operates and administers the tsunamic warning program for the United States. The West Coast & Alaska Tsunami Warning Center (WC&ATWC), Palmer, Alaska, has responsibility as the Alaska and U.S. West Coast Regional Tsunami Warning Center within the United States and British Columbia which is located between the U.S. states of Alaska and Washington.

The primary contact for disseminating tsunami traffic via NAWAS is the FEMA Alternate Operations Center (FAOC). When contacted by the WC&ATWC over the Region X NAWAS circuit, the FAOC will activate a Tsunami Conference which will consist of the States of Washington, Oregon, Alaska, California, and Hawaii; Bothell MERS Operations Center, Coast Guard Alameda and Seattle; Maritime Pacific Operations Center (MARPAAC) British Columbia, British Columbia PEP, and the FOC.

1. The FAOC will announce the conference in the following manner:

“This is the FEMA Alternate Operations Center, this message is for Alaska, Washington, Oregon, and California. Please standby for a message from the Tsunami Warning Center.” <REPEAT ONCE> “Stations standby for roll call.”

After initial roll call, the Tsunami Warning Center will then issue the watch/warning message. Upon completion, the FAOC will roll call affected stations again to ensure receipt.

2. Washington (Alternate) Warning Point when called during initial roll call, acknowledge the FAOC, then copy verbatim, the watch or warning issued by the Tsunami Warning Center. Acknowledge receipt of information when called. Record electronically if possible.

If TSUNAMI WATCH/WARNING is designated/issued for Washington coastal communities continue with steps 3 through 7.

3. On the state NAWAS circuit, contact all local Primary Warning Points that service the coastal counties (see list – below) and provide the TSUNAMI WATCH/WARNING message to them for dissemination. Contact should be done in the following manner:

Ring state NAWAS circuit (9 seconds) and say:

"THIS IS THE WASHINGTON WARNING POINT. THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE IS FOR (name NAWAS STATIONS listed below). OTHER STATIONS DISREGARD. ROLL CALL WILL FOLLOW. RELAY MESSAGE TO YOUR LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR. BELLINGHAM RELAY TO SAN JUAN, CLALLAM RELAY TO JEFFERSON, AND KELSO RELAY TO WAHAKIAKUM. THE SAME INFORMATION WILL BE SENT VIA ACCESS."

Issue tsunami watch/warning statement and other information as appropriate.

NAWAS STATIONS

Kelso	Oak Harbor
Grays Harbor	Skagit County
South Bend	Bellingham
Pierce County	Mason County
Seattle/King	Thurston County
Bremerton/Kitsap	Quinault Indian Nation
Everett	Seattle Weather
Clallam County	

4. After issuing statement follow with a roll call of affected stations, noting those stations that did not respond. Via telephone, call non-responding stations and provide the watch/warning information.
5. Via ACCESS: Under current procedures, the hard copy from the Tsunami Warning Center will automatically be on the ACCESS system. Follow-up bulletins will also be sent on the ACCESS system. Use ACCESS to resend any missed information or additional information that is not sent automatically from the Tsunami Warning Center.
6. Continue to monitor NAWAS as needed.
7. Additional Information received from the Tsunami Warning Center, FAOC, and/or National Weather Service will be passed on to the affected areas via NAWAS and ACCESS. Information received from reliable sources in the field will be passed on to the FAOC via NAWAS.